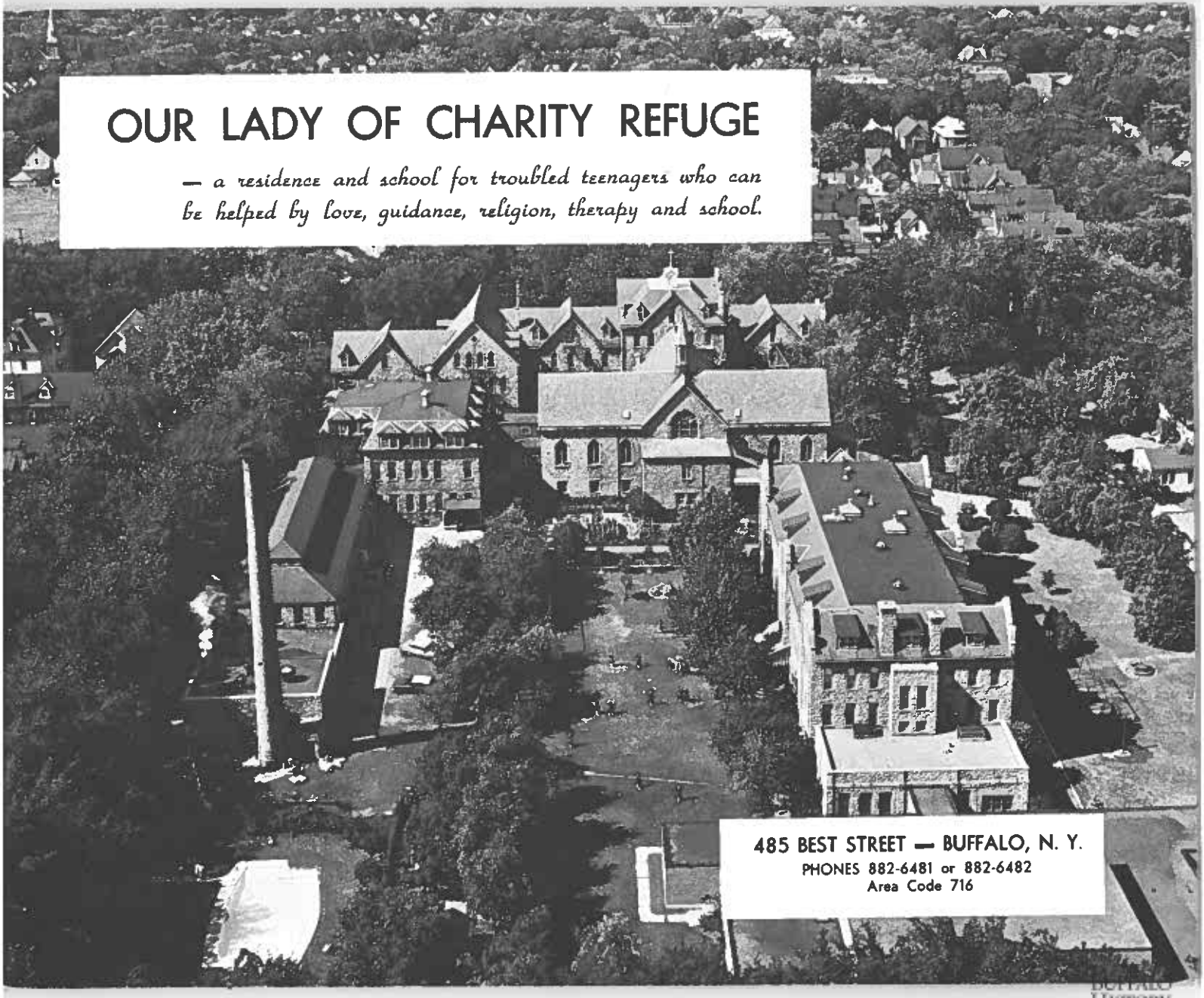
OUR LADY OF CHARITY REFUGE
— a residence and school for troubled teenagers who can be helped by love, guidance, religion, therapy and school.
485 BEST STREET — BUFFALO, N. Y.
PHONES 882-6481 or 882-6482
Area Code 716

BUFFALO HISTORY MUSEUM

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Our Lady of Charity Refuge

This is the doorway to a new life — a good life — waiting for every girl. A troubled teen-age girl comes to us a confused, disappointed girl, plagued with self doubt and fear—and a victim of a turbulent adult world. She may have come from a broken home or from a family that is disintegraing as a result of physical or mental illness. She may be unloved by hose at home or she may be in need of protection.

Our girls come from various referral agencies, and during their stay with us find a new and good way of life through professional and religious help —as residents in an atmosphere of love, education and therapy in a group setting — less demanding and all encompassing.

Shortly after she is admitted, a girl senses the compassion, understanding and warmth of the Sister who admits her. She comes to realize that the *Sisters of Our Lady of Charity* love her — a stranger to them at the start — because as an individual, unique in the universe, she is important.

For more than a hundred years, the *Sisters of Our Lady of Charity,* in Buffalo have thought girls are something wonderful. They have given their lives in service to thousands of girls who hae come to them to find themselves. Each year as more insight and knowledge in the solution of behavior problems accumulates, the Sisters use new techniques of problem-solving. But one thing never changes — sincere compassion for each girl.

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Good Health Is a Good Start

Our doctors provide a complete physical at admission time, annually, and as indicated. The Refuge offers a fully equipped health clinic and the professional care of doctors, specialists, dentists, nurse and pharmacist. Local hospitals are within easy reach. Health in daily living is stressed with good food habits, fun and regular exercise.

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The combined professional skills of the religious, professional, and lay staff at *Our Lady of Charity Refuge* in regular meetings insure coordinated effort and periodic review of each girl along the way from entrance to discharge. Working together are the Sisters as group mothers, teachers and social workers, with doctors, dentists, psychiatrists, case workers and lay teachers and specialists.

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We Live and Learn

Regular religious training, often sadly neglected, is a part of life at the Refuge in both formal and informal groups, and it is here that girls learn their own value as creatures created in the image and likeness of God. It is here they learn of social justice and the great laws of God. Chapel services are held regularly. Girls of religious faiths other than Catholic respect the Chapel as the House of God, attend services on Sunday as part of the supervised group and may receive counselling and guidance from a minister of their congregation.

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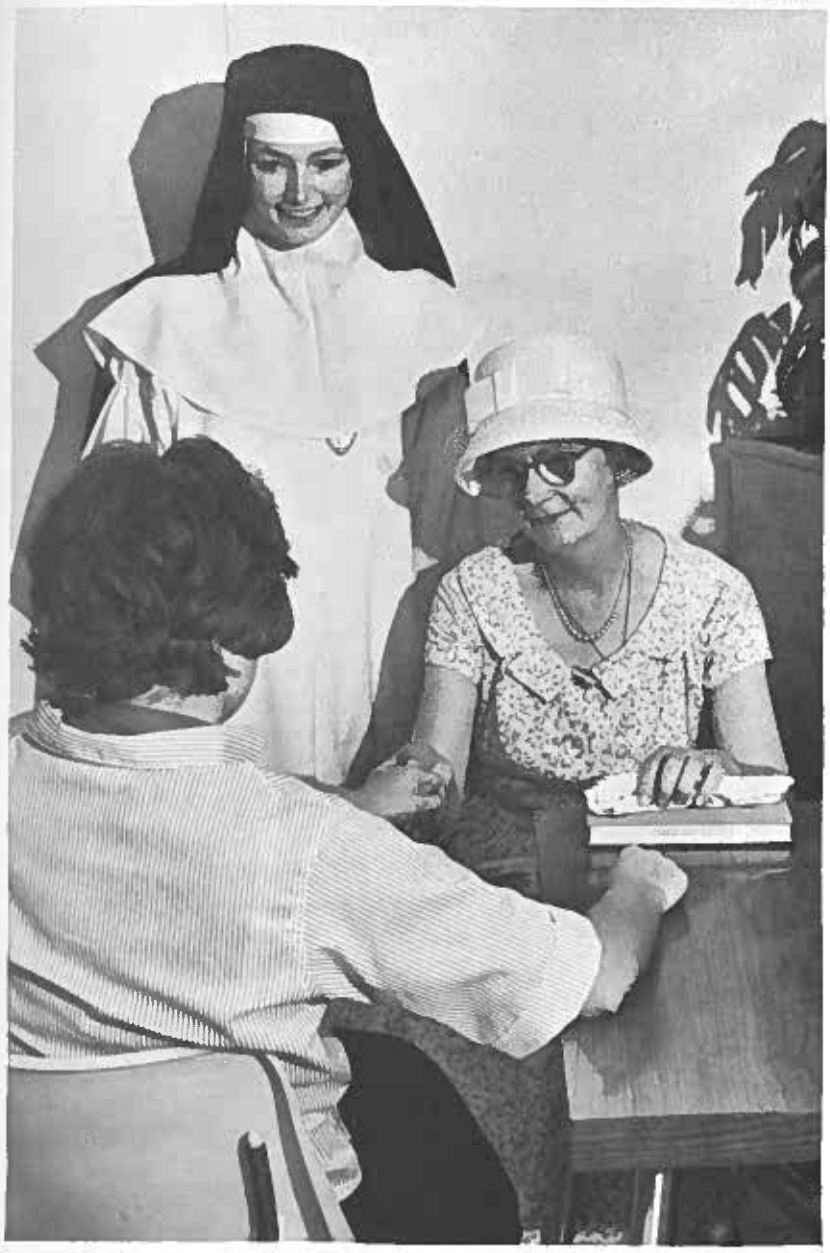
Competency in the skills with which to earn a living is part of the therapy for the present and part of the plan for future security. Our high school offers a major in business and the typing room is equipped with modern machines.

Learning the creative disciplines is part of our school program. The girls enjoy art classes and exhibits, music — both vocal and instrumental — concerts, and plays on a well-equipped stage.

Our Lady of Charity Refuge junior and senior high school students follow a curriculum tailored to their needs, both academic and occupational. College entrance, business and homemaking majors are offered, and special classes are arranged for slow learners. Regular study habits, a love of reading, and a sense of achievement are developed in class, in conference with lay teachers, and in extracurricular activities.

Classes are over for the day, and the girls stroll through the beautiful grounds on their way from school to change their school uniforms for play clothes or household chores — the same as teens do the world over.

THE BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Visiting Days

Visits of parents are encouraging, as mother finds that something wonderful has happened to her daughter. A girl who was admitted to the Refuge a disturbed, belligerent and bitter teen-ager is beginning to acquire poise, self-respect and new values. Parents begin to see smiles where they once saw frowns. On visiting days, parents see that their daughters are gradually learning skills in living, playing and working, and that they are approaching goals of personal happiness and peace so that they can live with the past, work in the present, and plan for the future.

THE BUFFALO

Some Answers

Solutions are sought to the moral, emotional and social conflicts within the individual through regular highly skilled treatment, psychological or psychiatric if needed—or residential therapy as indicated on an individual or group basis. It is essential in helping our girls to work at their problems, causes and root conflicts which have produced the symptoms of unacceptable behavior.

Just what does the world—both social and business — look for in a wholesome young woman applying for a sales job, practical nursing, secretarial work or in any other occupation? The girls learn these answers during an eight-week personality course. At the conclusion of the course a panel of visitors from the community, representing many walks of life, conducts a workshop for the girls as a climax to the course. It is from many of these generous community people that our girls hear again and again the value stressed daily by the Sisters and teachers at the Refuge. Besides, professional beauticians and fashion experts also bring the practical viewpoint into the lives of our girls and offer opportunities in learning and motivation towards the good life. life.

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Swim Time

Summertime is a favorite and the swimming pool is an all-time attraction. The outdoor pool is on the landscaped grounds, shown in the aerial view on the cover in the lower left section of the picture. Many of our girls come to us as landlubbers and leave good swimmers. The pool provides fun and offers another opportunity to learn "getting along with others" and good sportsmanship. Swimming is one of the Refuge's greatest seasonal sports.

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Friends . . .

When "day is done," chores and school work completed, our girls gather with Sister around a hi-fi to hear the latest records, to dance, read, chat and enjoy the evening hours with new-found friends in pleasant homelike groups under the loving care of a *Sister of Our Lady of Charity,* who binds all the professional and educational care together with a mother's love for each of "her" girls.

and Fun

Roller-skating in the huge indoor rink provides year-round fun and recreation, and is one of many popular sports at *Our Lady or Charity Refuge.* Each girl is encouraged to participate in sports for fun, recreation, physical fitness and a sense of accomplishment. Softball, basketball, tennis, swimming, and badminton are all provided in a comprehensive recreation program, both indoors and outdoors in the gymnasium and playground areas.

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Sportmanship and teamwork go hand in hand with fun on the basketball court, and keen competition adds zest to each day of living among our girls. The girls find that Sister can play, too.

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Time and Love

The more netural atmosphere of *Our Lady of Charity Refuge,* free from the tensions and temptations of our highly complex, competitive society gives our girls an opportunity to relax and the time to think and reflect. A consistent attitude of gentleness and love in a well ordered residential community usually paves the way for the girl to accept the help offered to her. The companionship, acceptance and guidance of adults on a day-to-day basis is often the touchstone of success. — Occasional talks on the lawn and indoors with Father Chaplain serve many purposes. Father has had many experiences which he shares, knows all about people, especially young people, and always knows the answers . . . On some pleasant afternoons and evenings the Refuge dining area resembles a quaint sidewalk cafe of an earlier day as the girls take turns at the outdoors barbecue and enjoy luncheon or dinner under the trees.

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Homemaking skills are stressed with dressmaking and sewing, laundering, nutrition, cooking, meal planning, housekeeping, home nursing and beauty care so that our girls will become good mothers and homemakers. A homemaking major is offered to high school students in a completely equipped suite; business and academic majors are offered, also.

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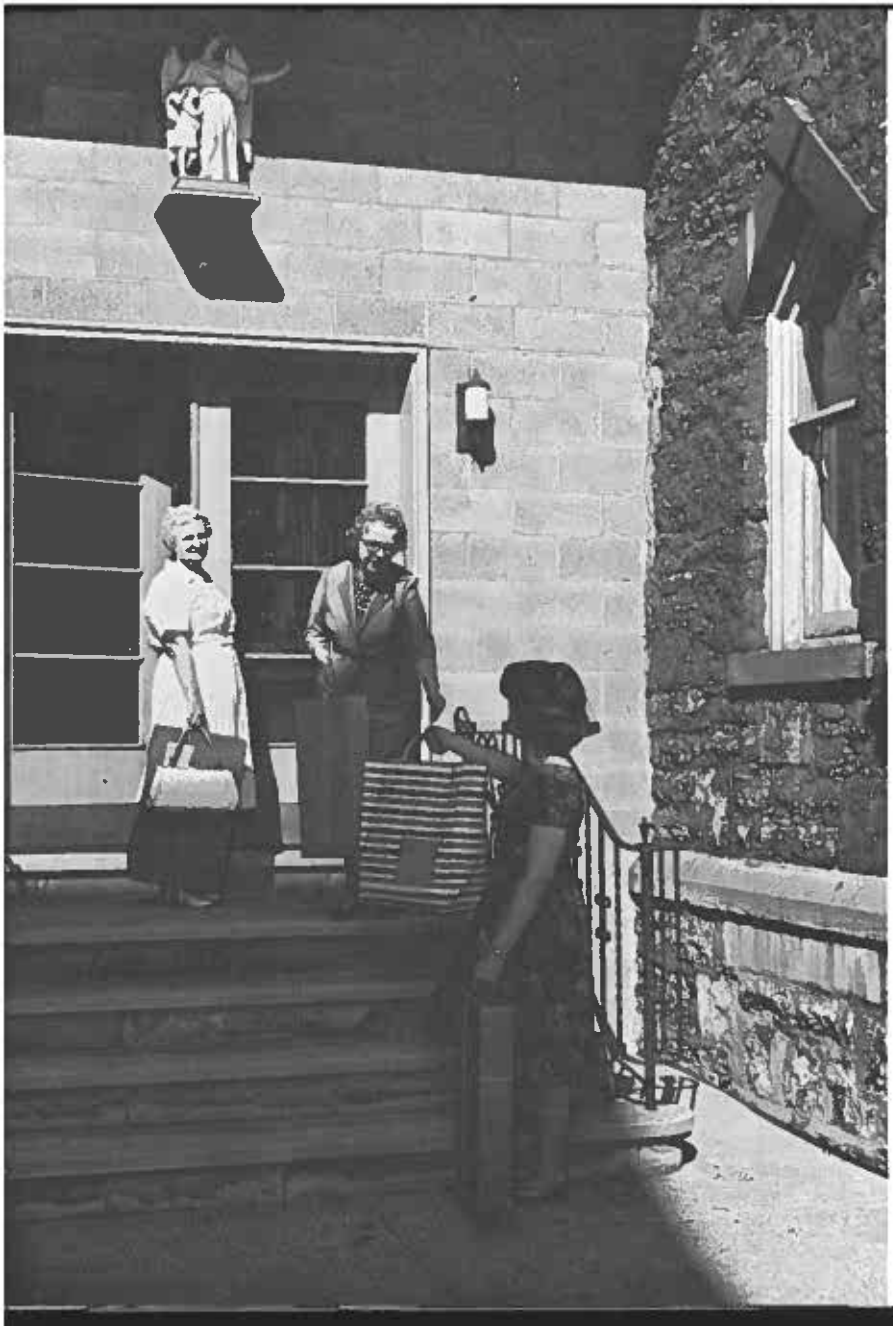
The Glory of Love

A pleasant grotte under the statue of St. John Eudes is a favorite meeting and resting place. Here a group of girls visit with Sister near the statue of St. John Eudes, who in 1641 in France organized a group of Sisters whom he called the *Order of Our Lady of Charity Refuge* to protect and help girls and women whose lives had been touched — even then — by a corrupt, materialistic society.

The work of the *Sisters of Our Lady of Charity* has not changed but has spread throughout the world. The Buffalo Refuge was founded as the first in America more than a hundred years ago. Through the years, the Sisters have dedicated their lives quietly to others, and in the silence of loving charity have forsaken the world with all its pomp to help to peace and eternal salvation those girls and young women whom the world has not befriended. The Sisters are assisted by many volunteer women who become companions for the day to our girls on shopping trips and visits throughout the city.

Buffalo History Museum



Deo Gratias

With a heart full of gladness our girls leave the protection of the *Refuge of Our Lady of Charity* with a new directive, healthy goals, and the motivation to face life with confidence and competence.

The beauty of inner goodness shines on young faces as our girls go out into the world into all walks of life, prepared to be good wives and mothers. Their spiritual training, combined with education and a day-by-day sharing of love with others, makes them warm and eager to try again. The strong bond between the girls and the Sisters is a lasting one, and our girls visit regularly with their husbands and children through the years.

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